
BOROUGH OF CHORLEY.

**Medical Officer of Health's
Annual Report.**

1908.



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CHORLEY, FEBRUARY 1909.

TO THE TOWN COUNCIL OF CHORLEY.

GENTLEMEN,

In presenting my Annual Report for 1908, I am glad to be able to congratulate you on the decided improvement in the Vital statistics, as compared not only with those obtaining in 1907 but also with the average of the previous decade.

There has been in 1908 a considerable increase in the Birth-rate over that of 1907, and a decrease in the Death-rate of Deaths registered and of Deaths of residents; and also the Infantile Mortality has materially decreased in comparison with the statistics of 1907, and the average for the preceding ten years.

Eight hundred and twenty-nine (829) Births were registered in the Borough during 1908, of which four hundred and thirty-four (434) were Males and three hundred and ninety-five (395) were Females. I estimate the population of the Borough in the middle of 1908 at 30,500, and accordingly calculate the Birth-rate of the year at 27·18 per thousand.

The Birth-rate estimated for 1907 was 25·50, or 1·68 less than that of 1908, and the average Birth-rate for the last ten years was 27·98 or ·8 more than that estimated for 1908.

The Birth-rate throughout England and Wales in 1908 was 26·5 per thousand, and for the smaller towns, amongst which Chorley is enumerated, 26·0, so that the Birth-rate of Chorley is higher than the average rate of the Country or of the towns comparable to your Borough.

Thirty-one (31) Births registered were illegitimate, giving a percentage of illegitimate Births of 3·7, as compared with 3·4 in 1907 and 3·7 in 1906.

In Table I. of the Local Government Board Tables appended to this Report, I have given the estimated population, the numbers of Births, and the Birth-rates of 1908 and the ten preceding years, and also the averages of the decade (1898—1907).

Four hundred and sixty-eight (468) Deaths were registered during 1908, two hundred and twenty-seven (227) being of Males, and two hundred and forty-one (241) of Females.

Upon the same estimated population, I obtain the Death-rate of 15·34 per thousand. This rate is decidedly below the rate of 1907, viz. : 16·46 per thousand ; and still more markedly below the average for the decade preceding 1908, viz. : 17·88 per thousand.

Indeed the Death-rate is the lowest that I have been able to report to you.

It does not, however, compare so favourably with the Death-rate of England and Wales in 1908, viz. : 14·7 per thousand, nor with the average rate of the smaller towns, viz. : 14·0 per thousand.

The Death-rate throughout England and Wales was in 1908 the lowest on record, being 0·3 per thousand less than that of the previous year.

The Chorley Death-rate, also the lowest on record, was 1·12 per thousand below that of 1907.

The number of Deaths in each Quarter, except the third, of 1908, were lower than the number in the corresponding Quarter of 1907, and the average number for that Quarter during the last ten years.

In the Third Quarter of 1908, however, there were decidedly more Deaths than in the Third Quarter of 1907, and a slight increase over the average for that Quarter in the previous decade.

You will see from Table A that the Second and Fourth Quarters of 1908 show the most marked decrease in the number of Deaths.

TABLE A.

YEAR.	FIRST QUARTER.	SECOND QUARTER.	THIRD QUARTER.	FOURTH QUARTER.	TOTAL.
1908	140	112	105	111	468
1907	149	129	91	125	494
Average of ten years 1898—1907	142·2	123·6	102·6	128·4	496·8

Fifteen (15) Deaths in the Workhouse and two (2) Deaths in the Rawcliffe Hospital occurred in the case of persons not resident in the Borough, whilst two (2) Chorley residents died in the Isolation Hospital, and four (4) in other Hospitals or Asylums outside the Borough, during the year.

To obtain the Death-rate of Chorley residents for 1908, I exclude those Deaths of non-residents registered in the Borough and occurring in the Workhouse and Rawcliffe Hospital, and include the Deaths of Chorley residents which have taken place in Hospitals outside the Borough, and which have been registered in other registration districts.

I find that four hundred and fifty-seven (457) Deaths of Chorley residents occurred in 1908, and thus, accordingly, the Death-rate of the residents of Chorley has been 14·99 per thousand per annum.

The Death-rate of Chorley Residents has only been obtained during the last four years, and from the next Table you will see that the rate in 1908 has been less than in any of the three preceding years.

TABLE B.

YEAR.	ESTIMATED POPULATION.	NO. OF DEATHS.	DEATH-RATE.
1908	30,500	457	14·99
1907	30,000	477	15·90
1906	29,500	461	15·63
1905	29,000	461	15·89

The decrease, in comparison with 1907, in the number of Deaths of residents has occurred in North and South Wards, whilst in East and West Wards there have been a few more Deaths in 1908 than in 1907. This you will see from the following Table, in which I have arranged the Deaths of 1908 and the three preceding years under the Wards and Workhouse (Chorley residents only).

TABLE C.

YEAR	Total Number of Deaths.	NORTH WARD.	SOUTH WARD.	EAST WARD.	WEST WARD.	WORK- HOUSE.
1908	457	83	97	129	119	29
1907	477	102	119	118	110	28
1906	461	82	89	126	120	44
1905	461	78	88	141	125	29

In the next Table (Table D) I have arranged the Deaths of Chorley residents under the various groups of ages at which they occurred, and compared each group with the similar groups of the three preceding years.

YEAR.	Under 1 Year.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 65.	65 and upwards.	TOTALS
1908	115	46	20	8	164	104	457
1907	131	64	22	19	147	94	477
1906	111	55	10	15	161	109	461
1905	110	59	16	13	184	79	461

You will see that all the age groups of Infants, Young Children, and Adolescents show a decreased number of Deaths in 1908, as compared with 1907, whilst, on the other hand, the Deaths in Adults and Old People have been more numerous in 1908 than in the previous year.

The decrease in the number of Deaths under one year of age has been largely due to the diminished mortality from Pneumonia, which was unusually prevalent amongst Infants in 1907.

The Infantile Mortality, or the ratio between the number of Deaths under one year of age and the number of Births registered during 1908 was one hundred and thirty-nine (139) per thousand, very much below the the Infantile Mortality of 1907, viz. : one hundred and seventy-one (171), and the average of the preceding decade (1898—1907) one hundred and seventy-two (172) per thousand.

In 1906, alone, has the Infantile Mortality been as low as that of 1908.

The Infantile Mortality throughout England and Wales in 1908 was one hundred and twenty-one (121) per thousand, and of the smaller towns one hundred and twenty-four (124) per thousand.

The average Infantile Mortality for the last decade in England and Wales was one hundred and forty-two (142) per thousand. In 1908 it was twenty-one (21) below the average of the previous ten years, whilst in Chorley, the Infantile Mortality was last year thirty-three (33) per thousand below the average of the previous decade.

In Table V. in the appendix I have arranged the Deaths of Infants under the various Diseases to which they were due and according to the number of weeks or months that the Infants lived.

Thirty (30) Infants died under one month of age, and eighty-five (85) between one and twelve months old.

Eleven (11) died from Infectious Diseases, viz.: from Whooping Cough nine (9), and from Chicken-pox and Measles respectively one (1); twenty (20) died from Diarrhœal diseases, forty seven (47) from Wasting diseases, including eleven (11) Premature Births, two (2) from Tubercular Diseases, and thirty-five (35) from other causes.

The Deaths of thirteen (13) Illegitimate Infants were registered during the year, giving the Infantile Mortality of Illegitimate Infants at four hundred and nineteen (419) per thousand, whilst the Infantile Mortality of Legitimate Infants is only one hundred and twenty-eight (128) per thousand Births.

In the next Table (Table E) the Deaths of residents in 1908 allotted in the various Wards and to the Workhouse are given under the principal Causes of Death. I also compare them with the total number of Deaths (of residents since 1902 and registered Deaths previous to that year) occurring in each of the years of the decade 1898—1907, and with the average number of Deaths at that period due to the several causes.

TABLE E.

Mortality from Subjoined Causes.

SUB-DIVISIONS.	Smallpox.	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria and Membranous Croup.	Enteric Fever	Puerperal Fever.	Erysipelas.	Measles.	Whooping Cough.	Diarrhoea.	Phthisis Pulmonalis.	Bronchitis, Pneumonia, and Pleurisy.	Heart Disease	Influenza.	Injuries.	All Other Diseases.	TOTALS
North Ward	1	...	...	...	4	...	2	13	10	1	3	49	83
South Ward	1	7	3	7	16	12	1	2	48	97
East Ward	1	2	...	...	...	2	5	12	19	12	...	1	75	129
West Ward	1	...	1	...	...	...	3	2	8	11	12	2	9	70	119
Workhouse	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	6	5	...	...	15	29
Total Deaths 1908	1	2	4	...	...	1	16	10	31	65	51	4	15	257	457
Average for 10 years 1898—1907...	·4	2·9	4·1	4·3	1·4	·6	12·9	6·8	12·6	26·4	90·3	41·6	11·3	14·6	261·7	491·9
Total Deaths 1907.....	3	1	2	...	23	7	13	26	83	49	3	12	255	477
1906.....	...	1	5	3	1	2	12	5	27	24	92	52	3	9	225	461
1905.....	...	1	6	4	1	1	...	3	8	27	92	35	5	12	266	461
1904.....	...	5	3	1	1	1	8	5	5	21	84	47	1	15	261	458
1903.....	...	6	1	3	...	...	9	14	6	35	79	52	3	12	248	468
1902.....	4	8	...	3	...	...	13	1	10	20	117	35	6	20	232	469
1901.....	...	1	3	3	2	...	10	1	19	26	65	42	15	16	282	485
1900.....	...	4	6	6	4	1	4	30	4	24	125	42	44	13	270	577
1899.....	9	8	2	1	50	2	16	34	108	29	20	19	279	577
1898.....	...	3	5	11	1	...	...	...	18	27	58	33	13	18	299	486

You may notice that as compared with the statistics of 1907, the Deaths occurring in 1908 show a marked decrease in those due to Measles and Lung Diseases especially, whilst the most notable increase is due to Whooping Cough, which was very prevalent during the first half-year.

Comparing the Deaths occurring in 1908, due to the various causes, with the average number of Deaths due to the same causes in the previous decade, you may see that the great majority of Diseases enumerated have produced less Deaths in 1908 than the average, and this decrease is most notable in Deaths due to Measles, Lung Diseases, and Influenza. In a few Diseases, chiefly Whooping Cough, Phthisis, and Heart Diseases, the average number of Deaths has been exceeded in 1908.

The Zymotic Death-rate from the seven principal Zymotic Diseases was in 1908 1·11 per thousand. In order to compare the Zymotic Death-rate of 1908 with that of 1907, I must add to the Zymotic Deaths—Eleven (11) Deaths from Gastro-Enteritis, Enteritis &c., occurring in 1908, but by the last instructions of the Local Government Board ordered to be excluded from the Deaths due to Diarrhœa. This addition will make the Zymotic Death-rate of 1908 1·47, as compared with the Zymotic Death-rate of 1·63 in 1907, and 1·83 in 1906. Had it not been for the epidemic of Whooping Cough, the Zymotic Death-rate would have been a very small one during 1908.

The Deaths from the principal Zymotic Diseases amounted to thirty-four (34), viz., one (1) from Scarlet Fever, two (2) from Diphtheria and Membranous Croup, four (4) from Typhoid Fever, one (1) from Measles, sixteen (16) from Whooping Cough, and ten (10) from Diarrhœa.

The number of Infectious Diseases reported to me was the lowest since your adoption of the Infectious Diseases Notification Act, viz., fifty-two (52). This number comprises fifteen (15) cases of Diphtheria and Membranous Croup, Eighteen (18) of Scarlet Fever, ten (10) of Typhoid Fever, and nine (9) of Erysipelas.

Twenty (20) cases of Infectious Diseases were removed from the Borough to the Isolation Hospital, viz., fifteen (15) of Scarlet Fever, three (3) of Typhoid Fever, and two (2) of Diphtheria.

In Table III. appended to this report I give the cases of Infectious Diseases reported from each Ward, under the headings of age and disease, and also the number of cases of each Infectious Disease removed from each of the Wards to the Isolation Hospital.

I arrange in Table F the reported cases of Infectious Diseases in each Ward of the Borough, and compare the total number of cases of each disease with similar totals obtaining in the four preceding years.

TABLE F

WARDS.	Smallpox.					Scarlet Fever.					Diphtheria and Membranous Croup.					Typhoid and other continued Fevers.					Puerperal Fever.					Erysipelas.					TOTALS.				
	1908	1907	1906	1905	1904	1908	1907	1906	1905	1904	1908	1907	1906	1905	1904	1908	1907	1906	1905	1904	1908	1907	1906	1905	1904	1908	1907	1906	1905	1904					
North.....	1	3	3	4	23	4	3	1	1	2	3	...	2	1	...	1	...	2	...	5	3	8	4	12	30	1904				
South.....	1	8	9	21	30	3	2	6	...	1	2	...	3	3	...	...	4	4	1	2	2	10	16	26	36	1905				
East	8	3	4	7	84	4	7	2	3	1	4	4	4	4	1	...	2	1	...	1	3	2	6	17	22	94	1906			
West	8	7	8	19	42	4	2	5	4	1	1	1	4	4	4	...	...	...	...	2	3	6	23	33	50	1907				
Totals 1908	18	...	...	...	...	15	...	...	...	...	10	...	...	...	...	...	9	...	...	...	52	...	...	...	...	...	1908			
Totals 1907	21	...	...	...	...	14	...	...	...	...	5	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	11	...	...	...	...	...	53			
Totals 1906	24	...	...	...	...	14	...	...	...	...	8	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	60	...	...	...	60			
Totals 1905	51	...	...	...	...	8	...	...	...	...	13	...	...	...	...	...	21	...	...	...	93	...	...	93			
Totals 1904	179	...	...	...	...	5	...	...	...	...	9	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	210			

No case of Smallpox has been reported during the year, and the last outbreak in your Borough was in 1903 and 1902, when forty-two (42) and twenty-five (25) cases occurred in these years respectively. The provision of ten beds at Finnington Hospital for the inhabitants of the district under the Chorley Joint Hospital Board is sufficient for any probable occurrence of the disease, which might at any time be brought into your Borough by tramps. I trust that the continued freedom from this disease will not induce parents and others to abstain from causing their children to be efficiently vaccinated, and that the relatively high percentage of vaccinated children may still obtain in Chorley.

Scarlet Fever was reported to me in eighteen (18) instances, the lowest number notified since the adoption by your Council of the Infectious Diseases Notification Act. One (1) case occurred in North and South Wards respectively, and eight (8) in each of East and West Wards. Fifteen (15) cases were removed to the Isolation Hospital, and in three (3) instances sufficient isolation at home or the condition of the patient rendered such action inadvisable. Only one (1) Death occurred from this disease.

Diphtheria notifications amounted to fifteen (15), four (4) cases being reported from North, East, and West Wards, and three (3) from East Ward. Two (2) cases were removed to the Isolation Hospital, and the remaining (13) were treated at home. Two (2) Deaths resulted from this disease, giving a mortality of 13 per cent. of the notified cases. Whilst Scarlet Fever has markedly decreased during the last three or four years, there has been an increase, though to a much smaller extent, in the number of notified cases of Diphtheria.

Typhoid Fever has been reported to me in ten (10) instances, one (1) from West Ward, two (2) from South Ward, three (3) from North Ward, and four (4) from East Ward. This is a larger number than I had to report to you for the years 1907 and 1906, when five (5) and eight (8) cases were notified in these years respectively, but closely approaches the average number of cases notified since the Water Closet conversion was completed in 1901, viz., 10·8, whilst in the eleven preceding years (1891—1901) the average number of cases notified was 48·5 per annum. Three (3) cases of Typhoid Fever were removed to the Isolation Hospital, and four (4) Deaths or 40 per cent. of the notified cases ended fatally.

Measles, which was very prevalent during the latter part of 1906 and the first half of 1907, has not been rife in 1908, and only one (1) Death has been reported during the year from this disease.

Whooping Cough on the other hand has been very prevalent, especially in the earlier months of the year, and sixteen (16) Deaths in 1908 were attributable to this disease.

As far as possible all children suffering from any Infectious Disease and, in the case of some diseases, all children from a family in which there is a case of Infectious Disease have been excluded from attending School, and I have to thank the Head Teachers of the various Schools for the efficient aid that they have afforded me in this matter.

No Schools were closed in the Borough on account of Infectious Diseases during the year.

All houses from which cases of Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria, and Typhoid Fever have been notified, were fumigated and disinfected by your Officials, and all clothing and bedding, &c., were removed to the Steam Disinfector for thorough disinfection. Thirty-six (36) houses were fumigated and disinfected, and eight hundred and sixty-seven (867) articles of clothing and bedding disinfected during the year.

I would like here to urge all those persons upon whom the duty of reporting Infectious cases is imposed by the Infectious Notification Act, to comply with the terms of the Act, and to send me "forthwith" any notification of Infectious Disease. Frequently during the year, I have received notifications some days, or even longer, after the identity of the Infectious Disease has been established, and in some cases only after Death has occurred. In order more effectually to ascertain the cause and to combat the spread of the disease, it is most desirable that your Officers should be informed of the existence of Infectious Disease without any delay after it is recognized.

School Inspection.—The Education Administrative Provisions Act, 1907, came into force in the beginning of 1908, and the Chorley Education Authority appointed me Superintending Medical Inspector of School Children, and Dr. Webb Medical Inspector. I am making a report of the inspection of children just entering the school,

and of those in the last year of their school life, to the Education Authority. I feel sure that this Inspection will result in the course of time in great benefit to the young members of the community provided the parents and guardians of the children co-operate with the Education Authority and their Officials in this work.

House Accommodation.—I have again to report that the House Accommodation is, as a whole, good throughout the Borough. At the census of 1901 it was found that the average number of inhabitants in each house was 4·8, and your Officers have no reason to believe that this proportion has been much exceeded as, though there has been a very considerable increase in population since that date, a large number of houses have been erected, especially in East Ward.

No action has been taken by the Council under the Housing of the Working Classes Act, as such action has not been considered necessary.

Prior to the erection of any house plans are submitted to and passed by the Council, shewing the drainage of and air-space round the new erections, and all other necessary particulars.

The Inspector presented to you in February a report of the inspection made by him and myself during the previous two months of the Cellar Dwellings, Single Houses, and Back-to-Back Houses throughout the Borough. This report was incorporated in my Annual Report for 1907.

As a result of the Report upon these houses your Council passed a resolution that the Inspector be directed to take steps to compel the proper ventilation and sanitary improvement in the premises mentioned as being unsatisfactory.

Notices have been served and the necessary improvements and repairs have been completed in forty (40) houses, and, at present, fifteen (15) more are under course of repair, &c.

Water Supply.—The Water Supply from the Liverpool Corporation Waterworks has been much improved during the year. In my Annual Report for 1906 I stated that the Botany and Heapey districts were not satisfactorily furnished with a sufficient and continuous supply of water. This deficiency was to a great extent remedied by the erection

or a storage tank in Heapey Road, but the general pressure, especially in the North Ward, still was insufficient. This has been lately much improved by the laying of a new fifteen inch main from the Chorley reservoir to the top of Eaves Lane.

I have had one or two complaints during the year about the impurity of the water, but as a general rule I consider that the Borough is well equipped with a sufficient supply of good pure water.

Cowsheds and Dairies (*Milk Supply*).—The whole of the Farms, Cowsheds and Dairies in the Borough were visited and examined by your Inspector and myself in 1906, and a report was made by me to the Council of their condition. Fresh regulations, chiefly on the lines of the Model Regulations of the Local Government Board, were made by the Council and ratified by that Board. My report was again considered by the Council, and notices were ordered to be served on several Cowkeepers and Dairymen to improve lighting and ventilation, remedy defective drainage and paving, and to reduce the number of cattle kept where there were more than one cow to every six hundred cubic feet of space.

As these notices were given in the latter portion of 1907, when the cows were not grazing, and the time allowed was considered insufficient, your Council agreed to defer any further action until the spring of 1908.

I am glad to be able to report that the following improvements have been made :—Ventilation in ten (10) cases, Drainage in eight (8), Water Supply in five (5) cases (four (4) of which have obtained the public supply), and overcrowding in fifteen (15) instances.

Four (4) other Cowkeepers have been served with notices, and the work will be undertaken in the spring of the present year.

The Milk Supply of Chorley is obtained not only from Dairymen and Cowkeepers resident within the Borough, but also from farmers living in several townships comprised in the Rural District of Chorley.

The Rural District Council have recently adopted Regulations under the Dairy and Cowsheds Act, and I have visited all the farms in the Rural District. The Rural Council have, like your Council, issued several notices to Cowkeepers requiring them to provide proper light, ventilation, drainage, and air-space for the cows.

I hope within a reasonable time to be able to report to you that all the Milk supplied to the inhabitants of Chorley comes from cows kept in well-lighted, ventilated, and properly drained Cowsheds, but as there are a large number of farm buildings not in a thoroughly satisfactory condition, the alterations necessary will take considerable time to be completed without inflicting too great burdens on the owners and occupiers of these farms.

I am glad to say, however, that these improvements are going steadily on.

I would like to have been able to state that all the farmers sufficiently appreciated the necessity of personal cleanliness when milking cows, and also the necessity of cleaning the udders of the cows at milking time. I have in many instances impressed upon Cowkeepers the liability of contamination of the milk, if milking is done with unwashed and dirty hands, or with the udders of the cow uncleaned and foul.

Generally as regards the cleanliness of the vessels used for taking out the milk, I can speak very favourably.

Slaughter House.—The consideration of the alteration and improvement of the Public Slaughter House was, at the Council Meeting in January, postponed. I think that this subject ought to receive your attention without any further delay. As I stated in my Annual Report for 1906, the Slaughter House is not up to the standard of present-day requirements, there being no place for hanging the meat separate from the killing rooms, with the consequent risk of contamination from the blood and offal of other animals—sometimes diseased, and pigs are from want of room sometimes kept in the Cattle Pens close to the Slaughter House. The walls and floors of the Slaughter House are not so constructed that they can be effectually and thoroughly cleaned. I recommend that the last plan brought before your notice by the Inspector should be again considered by you and adopted.

According to this plan, the central slaughter house would be made into pens for cattle, the two rooms on each side into slaughtering rooms, and the two outside into cooling and hanging rooms. The walls would be cemented to the height of eight feet from the ground, and the floors concreted, so that the walls and floors could be kept clean and in a sanitary condition. Also there would be constructed a separate place for the offal of the slaughtered cattle.

I feel sure in addition to the great sanitary improvement effected by the proposed alteration, rendering the meat less liable to accidental contamination, and more easily kept sweet and clean, that the butchers themselves would appreciate the increased comfort and cleanliness afforded.

The County Medical Officer of Health in his Annual Report for 1907, says in reference to this matter :—“I entirely agree with the opinion expressed, and suggest that the Council seriously consider the Medical Officer’s recommendations without further delay.”

The carcasses of fifteen hundred and seventy-seven (1577) cattle, three hundred and ninety-three (393) calves, seven thousand eight hundred and forty-two (7842) sheep, and twelve hundred and ninety (1290) pigs, have been in the Slaughter House and subjected to examination by your inspector.

I have frequently visited the Slaughter House, and we have condemned as unfit for food the carcasses of ten (10) cattle, ten (10) sheep, one (1) pig, and one (1) calf ; and in addition have ordered to be destroyed the offal of seventy-six (76) cattle, eight (8) pigs, and six (6) sheep, where there has not been in our opinion sufficient disease to render the meat unfit for human consumption.

The total amount of meat condemned weighed three thousand five hundred and fifty-four (3554) pounds.

Sewerage.—In this department very important work has been done during the year.

As a result of the Local Enquiry by an Inspector of the Local Government Board, a loan of £11,710 was sanctioned by that Board in May for the purpose of carrying out the plans made by the Borough Surveyor and approved by your Council.

Tenders were obtained for Materials for and Construction of a Four-foot Sewer from Water Street to the tunnel under Park Road, a Five-foot Sewer under Park Road, a Four-foot Sewer in Astley Park to the Inspection Chamber, and for a line of Three-foot Iron Pipes from the Inspection Chamber to the Sewage Works. Also a New Sewer is to be laid commencing in Jackson Street.

At the end of the year four hundred and eighty (480) yards of the four-foot Brick Culvert in Astley Park, and three hundred and thirty-three (333) yards of three-foot Iron Pipes had been completed.

These Sewers will prevent the blockage now happening in Water Street and the overflow into the bed of the river Chor, also the overflow at the Inspection Chamber ; and the New Sewer in Jackson Street will relieve the present Bolton Street Sewer.

It is to be hoped that the Chor will be eventually kept out of the Sewer, thus reducing the volume of sewage to be treated at the Sewage Works very considerably, especially in times of storm.

If all sewage is effectually kept out of the Chor, I see no reason why it should not go in its original and natural course.

The average daily flow of sewage to Common Bank Farm during the year was 1,395,757 gallons.

The Sewage Works have been improved by the addition of a new Sludge Press, obtained from Messrs. Goddard, Massey & Warner, and the storage of detritus has been moved to a more suitable place, excavated, pitched and paved by your Surveyor, and you have decided to convey the sludge through pipes from the detritus chamber to this storage place. After the water has drained off it will be subjected to treatment in the usual way.

A plan of a Sludge Lagoon at Bagganley, prepared by your Surveyor, has been approved and adopted by you. This work, together with the fixing of an Elevator and Waterwheel, has been completed.

Mr. T. Hurst, the Manager of the Common Bank Sewage Works, has been appointed by you Supervisor of all the Sewage Works in the Borough.

New Sewers have been constructed as follows :—18 inch in Bolton Street and Water Street ; 12 inch Brock Road, Gillibrand Walks, Doris Street, &c. ; 9 inch Sherbourne Street, Garden Street, Curate Street, and in several other Streets.

A loan of £158 has been sanctioned for the conversion of the old privies in Cowling into Water Closets. This completes the conversion from the pail and midden system to Water Closets.

There have been frequent complaints of a bad smell in various properties in Chapel Street, Market Street, and Fazakerley Street, and ventilators to the sewers have been fixed without affording complete relief. Your Surveyor has found an old sewer under part of this property, and has cut it off in Chapel Street. If this does not result in the complete cessation of the nuisance, I beg to recommend that the whole of this sewer be followed up, cleaned out, and cut off.

During the hot months of the year flushing of sewers was regularly carried out.

Paving, &c.—During the year, under your Surveyor's directions, a great amount of Paving, Flagging, Kerbing and Channelling has been done, and under Section 150 Public Health Act, several streets have been paved and flagged, &c.

Playgrounds.—By the will of the late Mr. Cocker a considerable sum of money was left for the purpose of acquiring Playgrounds for the children of Chorley. You have bought two pieces of land, at Ranglets in the South Ward, and Harpers Lane in East Ward, and early in the present year these plots of land will be handed over to the public.

The provision of Playgrounds for Children and Young People is of inestimable advantage to the whole of the population, and especially the young, as the more breathing places in any town the more healthy and the more free from disease is it likely to be.

Destructor.—There have been several improvements and additions in this department during the year.

You have ordered Meldrum's Steam Blowers to be fixed to each of the four cells, which will supplant the fans hitherto used, and which, as far as present experience shows, are a distinct improvement, as there is now more complete combustion, a better clinker formed, and an additional three tons of refuse per cell can be burnt every twenty-four hours.

I am glad to say that now the whole of the refuse of the town is being rendered harmless in the Destructor.

An additional building for the Fish Manure Works has been erected.

The Fish Manure Plant which was contracted for at the beginning of the year is now fixed and in good working order, and you have obtained in addition a Disintegrator to render the Fish Manure more suitable for sale.

An analysis has been made of the Fish Manure showing that the product possesses very high manurial efficiency, and a ready sale of it is always probable.

The profit on the sale of the Fish Manure during the last five months has reached the considerable sum of £90.

Public Baths —It is many years since the establishment of Public Baths for the inhabitants of the Borough was first discussed, either in the Town Council or at other public meetings held in the town.

There has been a universal consensus of opinion as to the desirability of Public Baths, but other and equally necessary improvements in the Sanitary and other departments have delayed the undertaking of their construction by the Council at the expense of the Ratepayers.

I think the delay has partly been caused by the unfulfilled hope that some generous donor would emulate the example of those benefactors who presented the town with the Hospital and Free Library.

However, the frequent fatal accidents occurring to young people whilst bathing during the summer, have given fresh impetus to the demand for some means of bathing without danger, and acquiring the art of swimming.

The subject has lately been fully discussed by your Council, and you have resolved to provide Public Baths for Chorley.

A Committee have visited and inspected Public Baths at Blackburn Darwen, Heywood, and Radcliffe.

Towards the end of the year you selected a very suitable site at the corner of the Cattle Market and Clifford Street, and you have directed the Surveyor to prepare plans and estimates for the erection of Baths.

Factories and Workshops.—I have generally to report favourably about the Sanitary condition of the Factories and Workshops in the Borough.

Your Inspector and I have during the year visited most of the Factories and Workshops, and have inspected the Sanitary Conveniences, Ventilation, Means of Exit in case of Fire, &c., &c.

In every case we have taken a list of the number of Workpeople in the various Factories and Workshops, and we have not found any infringement of the rules as to air space.

Food and Drugs.—The County Police have taken sixty-eight (68) samples of food during the year, and have submitted them to the County Analyst for analysis.

The samples taken were twenty three (23) of Butter, twelve (12) of Lard, eleven (11) of Milk, six (6) of Vinegar, five (5) of Coffee, three (3) of Pepper, two (2) each of Arrowroot, Yeast, and Jam, and one (1) each of Cheese and Margarine.

One Milk seller was prosecuted for selling Milk containing four per cent. of added water, and was ordered to pay costs.

Smoke.—Several observations of the discharge of black Smoke from Mill Chimneys have been taken during the year, and notices have been served upon the owners of two Factories requiring them to abate the nuisance. In each case black Smoke had been noticed issuing from the chimneys for more than ten minutes per hour, and in one of the cases, over twenty minutes. I venture to suggest that your time limit of ten minutes per hour is too much, and considerably more than is permitted in most manufacturing towns. The discharge of so much black Smoke into the air is quite unnecessary and wasteful, in addition to the interference with the comfort and well-being of the inhabitants of your town.

Lodging Houses.—There are now only two private Lodging Houses in the Borough, and two Model Lodging Houses, one having been recently built in Standish Street.

The Lodging Houses are registered, and under the inspection of your Officers.

In the Model Lodging Houses we have paid special attention to the means of escape in the case of fire, and I am glad to be able to report that the owners have provided reasonable fire escapes for that purpose.

In the last Table I give a list furnished to me by the Sanitary Inspector of notices served, nuisances abated, and sanitary improvements made in his department during the year.

From this Table you will see that both he and his Assistant have been actively and profitably engaged during the year.

TABLE G.

Sanitary Improvements.	Number of Cases.
Stoppages of Water Closets removed	778
Stoppages of Yard and Slopstone Drains removed ...	532
Defective Water Closets remedied	22
Defective Drainage of Houses remedied	7
Defective Downspouts and Slopstones remedied ...	8
Delapidated condition of Houses remedied	19
Overcrowding Shippons abated and Ventilation improved ...	15
Water Supply to Cowsheds and Dairies improved ...	2
Defective Manure Receptacles altered !... ..	3
Dirty Houses, &c., whitewashed	9
Dirty Yards, Passages, &c., cleaned	13
Houses Infected with Fever disinfected	36
Pigs, Poultry or Pigeons kept so as to be a nuisance removed	11
Other Notices abated	11
Total... ..	1466

I append to this Report copies of the Local Government Board Tables of statistics.

I have the honour to be,

Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

JAMES A. HARRIS, M.D.,

Medical Officer of Health.

TABLE I.

Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1908 and previous Years

YEAR.	Population estimated to Middle of each Year.	BIRTHS.		TOTAL DEATHS REGISTERED IN THE DISTRICT.				Total Deaths in Public Institutions in the District.	Deaths of Non-residents registered in Public Institutions in the District.	Deaths of Residents registered in Public Institutions beyond the District.	NETT DEATHS AT ALL AGES BELONGING TO THE DISTRICT.		
		Number	Rate.	Under 1 Year of Age.		At all Ages.					Number	Rate.	
				Number	Rate per 1000 Births regis- tered.	Number	Rate.						
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
1898	26300	799	30·38	131	164	486	18·48					
1899	26500	788	29·77	181	229	577	21·77					
1900	26750	719	26·88	162	226	577	21·57					
1901	27000	759	28·11	138	181	485	18·05					
1902	27500	790	28·72	123	155	462	16·80	14	3	10	469	17·05
1903	28000	825	29·46	121	147	464	16·57	7	1	5	468	16·71
1904	28500	782	27·44	133	170	455	15·96	10	2	5	458	16·07
1905	29000	775	26·73	111	143	486	16·76	67	27	2	461	15·89
1906	29500	791	26·81	111	139	482	16·34	85	23	2	461	15·63
1907	30000	765	25·50	131	171	494	16·46	65	19	2	477	15·9
Averages for years 1898-1907		27900	779·3	27·98	134·2	172·5	496·8	17·88					
1908	30500	829	27·18	115	139	468	15·34	61	17	6	457	14·99

Area of District in acres (exclusive of area covered by water)—3613 acres.

At Census of 1901 :—

Total population at all ages—26,852.

Number of inhabited houses—5,618.

Average number of persons per house—4·8.

I.

Institutions within the District receiving sick and infirm persons
from outside the District.

CHORLEY UNION WORKHOUSE.

RAWCLIFFE HOSPITAL.

II.

Institutions outside the District receiving sick and infirm persons
from the District.

ISOLATION HOSPITAL, HEATH CHARNOCK.

III.

Other Institutions, the deaths in which have been distributed
among the several localities in the District.

MANCHESTER INFIRMARY.

BLACKBURN INFIRMARY.

ST. JOSEPH'S HOME, PRESTON.

COUNTY LUNATIC ASYLUM, LANCASTER.

Is the Union Workhouse within the District?—*Yes.*

TABLE II.

**Vital Statistics of Separate Localities in 1908 and
previous years.**

<i>Names of Localities.</i>	1. <i>North Ward.</i>		2. <i>South Ward.</i>		3. <i>East Ward.</i>		4. <i>West Ward.</i>		5. <i>Workhouse. Chorley residents</i>	
<i>Year.</i>	<i>Deaths at all Ages.</i>	<i>Deaths under 1 Year.</i>	<i>Deaths at all Ages.</i>	<i>Deaths under 1 Year.</i>	<i>Deaths at all Ages.</i>	<i>Deaths under 1 Year.</i>	<i>Deaths at all Ages.</i>	<i>Deaths under 1 Year.</i>	<i>Deaths at all Ages.</i>	<i>Deaths under 1 Year.</i>
1898 ...	90	24	108	33	113	32	136	42		
1899 ...	102	35	120	40	148	51	163	55		
1900 ...	90	37	140	40	162	58	125	36		
1901 ...	93	20	93	29	109	48	147	41		
1902 ...	83	19	116	40	116	25	101	38		
1903 ...	77	20	88	22	141	45	131	33		
1904 ...	71	18	93	39	142	46	112	30		
1905 ...	78	17	88	21	141	40	125	31	29	1
1906 ...	82	15	89	27	126	35	120	32	44	2
1907 ...	102	28	119	37	118	38	110	28	28	...
Averages of Years 1898 to 1907 ...	86·8	23·3	105·4	32·8	131·6	41·8	127	36·6		
1908 ...	83	25	97	24	129	40	119	26	29	...

TABLE III.

Cases of Infectious Disease Notified during the Year 1908.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE,	CASES NOTIFIED IN WHOLE DISTRICT.					TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED IN EACH LOCALITY.				CASES REMOVED TO HOSPITAL FROM EACH LOCALITY.				Total Cases removed to Hospital
	At all Ages.	1 to 5 years.	5 to 15 years.	15 to 25 years.	25 to 65 years.	North Ward.	South Ward.	East Ward.	West Ward.	North Ward.	South Ward.	East Ward.	West Ward.	
Diphtheria(including Membranous Group)	15	7	6	1	1	4	3	4	4	...	2	...	...	2
Erysipelas	9	1	...	1	7	...	4	3	2	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever.....	18	9	6	1	2	1	1	8	8	1	1	7	6	15
Enteric Fever.....	10	...	1	2	7	3	2	4	1	1	...	1	1	3
TOTALS.....	52	17	13	5	17	8	10	19	15	2	3	8	7	20

Isolation Hospital, Chorley Joint Hospital, Heath Charnock Total available beds, 36. Number of diseases that can be concurrently treated, 4.

TABLE IV.
Causes of, and Ages at, Death during Year 1908.

Cause of Death.	Deaths at the subjoined ages of “ Residents ” whether occurring in or beyond the District.							Deaths at all ages of “ Residents ” belonging to localities, whether occurring in or beyond the District.					Total deaths whether of Residents or Non- Resident in Public Institutions in the District.	
	All Ages.	Under 1 Year.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 65.	65 and upwards.	North Ward.	South Ward.	East Ward.	West Ward.	Workhouse— Chorley Residents.		
													Hospital.	Workhouse
Measles.....	1	1							1					
Scarlet Fever.....	1		1								1			
Whooping Cough	16	9	6	1				4	7	2	3			
Diphtheria (includ- ing Membran- ous Croup	2			2						1		1		1
Enteric Fever ..	4				1	3		1		2	1			
Epidemic Influenza	4					3	1	1	1		2			
Diarrhœa	10	9				1			3	5	2			
Enteritis	16	11	2			2	1	3	6	2	5			
Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis)	31		1	3	1	25	1	2	7	12	8	2		2
Other tuberculous diseases ...	11	2	6	1	1	1		3	2	2	4			
Cancer, malignant disease...	18					12	6	5	5	3	5		2	
Bronchitis	33	5	6			13	9	7	8	9	4	5		7
Pneumonia.....	32	8	8	1	1	9	5	6	8	10	7	1	1	1
Other diseases of Respiratory Organs	2			1		1				1	1			
{ Alcoholism — { Cirrhosis of Liver	2					2			1			1		1
Premature birth	11	11						5	1	4	1			
Diseases and Accidents of parturition	4					4		1	1		2			
Heart diseases ...	51		1	1	1	35	13	10	12	12	12	5	1	7
Accidents ..	15	2	3		1	6	3	3	2	1	9		3	
Suicides	3					2	1			3				2
Other Septic diseases	2			2					1	1			2	
Uncertified or Inquests, (natural causes)	13	4	2	1		5	1	3	2	6	2			
All other causes	175	53	10	7	2	40	63	29	29	53	50	14	9	22
All causes	457	115	46	20	8	164	104	83	97	129	119	29	18	43

TABLE V.

Infantile Mortality during the Year 1908.

Deaths from stated Causes in Weeks and Months under ONE Year of Age.

Cause of Death.	Under 1 Week.	1-2 Wks.	2-3 Wks.	3-4 Wks.	Total under 1 Month.	1-2 Mths.	2-3 Mths.	3-4 Mths.	4-5 Mths.	5-6 Mths.	6-7 Mths.	7-8 Mths.	8-9 Mths.	9-10 Mths.	10-11 Mths.	11-12 Mths.	Total Deaths under One Year.
	14	10	5	1	30	7	16	8	7	8	6	13	2	5	8	4	114
All Causes } Certified	14	10	5	1	30	7	16	8	7	8	6	13	2	5	8	4	114
Causes } Uncertified																	1
Chicken-pox.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1
Measles .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1
Whooping Cough.....	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	1	...	1	...	1	...	...	3	1	9
Diarrhoea, all forms... ..	...	1	1	...	2	...	1	3	2	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	9
Enteritis, Muco-enteritis, Gastro-enteritis .....	...	...	1	...	1	...	1	1	1	1	1	2	...	...	2	...	10
Gastritis, Gastro-intestinal Catarrh	8	2	1	...	11	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Premature Birth .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
Atrophy, Debility, Marasmus	3	6	2	...	11	4	6	2	2	2	2	5	...	...	1	1	36
Tuberculous Meningitis .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	1
Other Tuberculous Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	1
Meningitis (not Tuberculous)	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	1	1	1	1	...	...	...	...	6
Convulsions	1	1	...	...	2	1	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	4
Bronchitis.....	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	1	1	1	...	1	3	1	1	5
Pneumonia .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	1	1	1	...	8
Other Causes	2	...	...	...	2	1	4	...	...	...	...	1	1	1	1	1	12
	14	10	5	1	30	7	16	8	7	9	6	13	2	5	8	4	115

Population (estimated to middle of 1908) ... 30,500.

Births in the year :—Legitimate, 798 ; illegitimate, 31. Deaths :—Legitimate infants, 102 ; illegitimate, 13.

Deaths from all Causes at all Ages :—Registered 468 ; Residents 457.